



Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Inc.

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**TESTIMONY ON SB 1195**

**AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL FINANCE REFORM**

**APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING**

**MARCH 24, 2011**

Good afternoon Chairwomen Harp and Walker, Vice Chairs and Ranking Members of the Committee. My name is Lydia Tedone and I am the Vice Chair of the Simsbury Board of Education; a member of the CREC Council and the First Vice President of CT Association of Boards of Education (CABE).

I am here to testify against the passage of SB 1195, an Act Concerning School Finance Reform for reasons listed below:

There is mutual agreement the current system of school funding is inadequate. Public schools, magnets, charters, vocational education and vocational agricultural schools need a long term funding formula, so as to avoid additional burdens on district budgets. Careful consideration and analysis to insure adequate funding for our educational system is critical if we are to continue to provide the best education for the school children of Connecticut.

The provisions outlined in this bill are premature because several flaws exist. The so-called "money follows the child" theory will benefit only the students choosing to leave their local schools, while funding for traditional public schools will be reduced. This will hurt our students with the greatest achievement challenges.

The concept of the proposed bill encourages a climate for action within our educational system, but is ahead of time in allocating funding. The School Finance Task Force needs to complete comprehensive studies before instituting a new funding system.

No one is in disagreement that there is not enough money in the state budget to fund education completely. We must all remember state funding has not increased for three consecutive years.

If we believe every child deserves a high quality education and our school systems are capable of delivering such educational standards, then I strongly urge you to reject SB 1195 and encourage you in developing a funding mechanism the benefits the academic achievement of all students.